**STD facilities in villages of Punjab**

1194. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise number of villages in the State of Punjab particularly in the border areas which have been linked with the cities by telephone and STD facilities upto 31st January, 1997;

(b) the district-wise number of villages proposed to be linked up during 1996-97 and 1997-98; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) (i) The district-wise details of villages are given in the Statement I (see below).

(ii) The district-wise details of villages particularly in Border area is given in the Statement II (see below)

(b) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(c) (i) It is planned to provide telephone facilities to all villages progressively.

(ii) It is proposed to provide STD facilities in 19 village during 1996-97. Plan for 1997-98 is yet to be finalised.

**Statement I**

| Sl. No. | District | No. of villages | No. of villages falling on border areas of Punjab | No. of villages provided with telephone facility (VPTs) upto 31.1.97 without STD | No. of Telephone Exchanges provided with STD facility* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Amritsar | 1293 | 1256 | 990 | 61 |
| 2. | Gurdaspur | 1736 | 1736 | 887 | 29 |
| 3 | Ferozepur | 970 | 970 | 570 | 26 |
| 4 | Mukatsar | | | | |
| 5 | Faridkot | 904 | — | 90 | 49 |
| 6 | Moga | | | | |
| 7 | Jallandhar | | | | |
| 8 | Kapurthala | 1988 | — | 1187 | 50 |
| 9 | Nawanshahar | | | | |
| 10 | Ludhiana | 916 | — | 751 | 56 |
| 11. | Patiala | | | | |
| 12 | Fatehgarhsahib | 1586 | — | 1114 | 16 |
| 13 | Bhatinda | | | | |
| 14 | Mansa | 528 | — | 503 | 20 |
| 1? | Sangrur | 739 | — | 727 | 50 |
| 16. | Hoshiarpur | | | | |
| 17 | Ropar | 2567 | — | 1141 | 70 |
| 18 | Chandigarh (UT) | 25 | — | 16 | 4 |

*The Village Public Telephones (VPTs) connected to these Exchangs can have STD facility in case there is a demand.

**Statement II**

| SI. No. | Name of district on border area | No. villages | No. of villages provided with telephone facilites upto 31.1.97 | No. of Telephone Exhanges provided with STD facility | No. of villages proposed for telephone facilities during 1996-97 | No. of Telephone Exchanges working in villages/ Rural areas proposed for STD facility during 1996-97 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Amritsar | 1293 | 990 | 61 | 100 | 5 |
| 2. | Gurdaspur | 1736 | 887 | 29 | 100 | 14 |
| 1. | Ferozepur | 970 | 570 | 26 | 150 | — |

**Scheme to expand communication network**

1195. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased, to state:

(a) whether Government has formu lated any scheme to expand communica tions network in the country particularly in the Slate of Punjab;

(b.) if so. the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VAR-MA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The targets for installation of new telephone connections for the expansion on communication network during 1996-97 and proposed during 1997-98 are as follows:

(in lakh)

| Year | For entire Country | For State of Punhab |
|---|---|---|
| 1996-97 | 24.50 | 1.53 |
| 1997-98 | 29.00 | 1.69 (tentative) |

(e) Docs not arise in view of (b).

Id) Efforts are being made to achieve the targets fully by making available the resources like equipments and other infrastructures.

**Telephone Exchange in Punjab**

1196. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges functioning in Punjab, district-wise;

(b) the capacity of each of these exchagnes;

(c) whether Government propose 'to increase their capacity and make modernisation thereof; and

(d) if so, the detail thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) Total exchagnes working in Pubjab "Circle are 876. The details are given in Annexure *[See* Appendix 180 Annexure No. 30]

(c) Yes, Sir. The exchanges have already been modernised and there are plans to increase the capacity.

(d) The details are given in Annexure *[See* Appendix 180 Annexure No. 30]